

# Foreword

The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 was enacted to improve the financial management practices of the Federal Government, and to ensure the production of reliable and timely financial information for use in the management and evaluation of Federal programs. The Government Management Reform Act (GMRA) of 1994 furthered the objectives of the Chief Financial Officers Act by requiring all Federal agencies to prepare and publish annual financial reports, beginning with fiscal year 1996 activity. At the same time, the GMRA authorized the Office of Management and Budget to implement a pilot program to streamline and consolidate certain statutory financial management and performance reports into a single, annual Accountability Report.

The 1996 Accountability Report is the Department's first report under the pilot program. The objective of this report is to provide complete and concise financial and performance information about how well the Department has achieved its financial program objectives, and managed its limited resources of people and available funding during 1996.

All comments regarding the content and presentation of this report are welcome. An electronic copy of the report is available on Interior's Office of Financial Management World Wide Web site ([http://www.doi.gov/pfm/www\\_pfm.html](http://www.doi.gov/pfm/www_pfm.html)).

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*About the cover - In 1941, the National Park Service commissioned noted photographer Ansel Adams to create a photo mural project for the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The theme was to be nature as exemplified and protected in the U.S. National Parks. The cover photograph is a panorama of the Canyon de Chelly Valley, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona taken by Mr. Adams as part of that project.*

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



## Fiscal Year 1996 Accountability Report

June 1997

# *In Memoriam*

## **Mollie Beattie Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1993 - 1996)**

**April 27, 1947 - June 27, 1996**



This year, we lost Mollie Beattie after her valiant struggle against brain cancer.

Mollie Beattie, the first woman to direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, died June 27, 1996, after a year-long battle with cancer. During her tenure, Ms. Beattie skillfully and effectively led the Service, and in the process, gained the admiration of supporters and opponents alike for her dedication, integrity and vision.

Ms. Beattie was a vigorous defender of the Endangered Species Act and of the importance of preserving biodiversity. "This is the legacy I would like to leave behind," she once said. "I would like to have stopped the ridicule about conservation of snails, lichens and fungi, and instead move the debate to which ecosystems are the most recoverable and how we can save them, making room for them and ourselves."

In fact, Ms. Beattie's most striking achievement as director may well have been her eloquence on behalf of wildlife. With a persuasive mixture of logic and passion, she made her audience think about the connections between the future of humanity and the future of wildlife. "Our fate and that of our economy are linked to natural systems," she said. She talked often about the fact that a healthy economy depends upon a healthy environment, and called endangered species "Mother Nature's 911" - signals of environmental distress that would ultimately affect people.

Mollie Beattie led the Department's effort to improve administration of the Endangered Species Act, implementing a 10-point plan to take full advantage of the Act's flexibility, strengthen its scientific basis and ensure fairness to landowners. The Service negotiated some 150 habitat conservation plans to allow landowners to develop their land while still conserving endangered species.

She was a keen supporter of the National Wildlife Refuge System and oversaw dedication of the 500th national wildlife refuge at Canaan Valley, West Virginia. At her urging, President Clinton issued a ground breaking Executive Order that clearly defines the mission, purpose and priority public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

She proclaimed the first National Wildlife Refuge Week as part of a larger campaign to increase public awareness of the refuge system, and opened new hunting and fishing programs on refuges. Thirteen new refuges were added during her tenure.

Ms. Beattie was a native of Vermont. She served the public throughout her career in positions such as executive director of the Richard A. Snelling Center for Government in Vermont, deputy secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources, and commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

In 1994, Ms. Beattie personally released a rehabilitated bald eagle named "Hope" to the wild to mark the reclassification of the bald eagle from endangered to threatened. That day she wrote in her journal, "Is this a great job or what?"

On July 29, 1996, President Clinton signed the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area Act, naming eight million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in her memory. The area spans the heights of the Brooks Range, towering over the seasonal pageant of migrating wildlife along the Arctic coastal plain. "It ensures that future generations will recall the lasting contributions Mollie made to conserving our Nation's priceless natural heritage," President Clinton said.

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